THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Commission has recently circulated guidelines to the State Government and Union Territory Administrations on "Corporal Punishment in Schools".

(c) The State Government and Union Territory administrations have been asked to ensure the following:

1. All children are to be informed through campaigns and publicity drives that they have a right to speak against corporal punishment and bring it to the notice of the authorities. They must be given confidence to make complaints and not accept punishment as a 'normal' activity of the school.

2. Every school, including hostels, JJ Homes, shelter homes and other public institutions meant for children must have a forum where children can express their views. Such institutions could take the help of an NGO for facilitating such an exercise.

3. Further a box where children can drop their complaints even if anonymous has to be provided for in each school.

4. There has to be a monthly meeting of PTAs or any other body such as the SEC/VEC to review the complaints and take action.

5. The PTAs are to be encouraged to act immediately on any complaints made by children without postponement of the issue and prevent a more grave injury being caused.

6. Parents as well as children are to be empowered to speak out against corporal punishment without any fear that it would have adverse effect on children's participation in schools.

7. The education department at all levels—block, district and State are to establish procedures for reviewing the responses to the complaints of children and monitoring the action taken on the same.

(d) Does not arise.

Welfare of widows

1664. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that according to 2001 census, over 34 million widows are leading their lives pathetically;

(b) if so, the reasons for which widows have to die; and

(c) whether Government propose to launch any special drive for the gradual emancipation of such unfortunate citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) According to census of India 2001 report available on the website- *www.census.india.net* the total number of widows in all age groups in 34289729. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is running the Swadhar Scheme for providing shelter based holistic and integrated services to women in difficult circumstances including destitute widows.

Save the girl child campaign

1665. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to start 'save the girl child' campaign;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) As per information furnished by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Government of India launched 'Save the Girl Child Campaign' with a view to lessen son preference by highlighting achievements of young girls. During 2003-04, Sania Mirza was the Brand Ambassador for the 'Save the Girl Child Campaign'. CBSE topper Ms. Aruna Kesavan has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador for the Government's 'Save the Girl Child Campaign', 2004-05. Ms. Joshna Chinappa, Jr. and Sr. National and Asian Squash Champion is the brand Ambassador for 2005-06. Ms. Saina Nehwal, Jun. Badminton Champion, has been selected as the Brand Ambassador for 2006-07.

Prevention of human trafficking

1666. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women proposes to spell out a draft integrated plan of action to prevent and combat human trafficking;

(b) if so, whether Government have undertaken any review of the existing policies to present, its point of view regarding the prevention strategies;

(c) if so, the details of the findings and the steps proposed to be initiated to plug the loopholes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The report of the Committee on Prostitution, Child Prostitutes and Children of Prostitutes and Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children of 1998 has been reviewed to make it